United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 5
Office of Public Affairs
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Chicago, Illinois 60604

Illinois, Indiana,
Michigan, Minnesota,
Ohio, Wisconsin

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11/1/90

EPA

FACT SHEET

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SERVICES
Superfund Site Update
Phase II Technical Memorandum

November 1990

BACKGROUND

Since inclusion of the American Chemical Services site (ACS) on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List in 1983, the following actions have been taken at ACS:

1984 - Two site assessments by the EPA Technical Assistance Team were conducted, first at the off-site containment area and treatment lagoon #1, then a spill prevention, countermeasure and control inspection; no imminent threats to public safety were determined. However, a request was made for the disposition of an abandoned fuel tank on the off-site containment area.

1984 - A preliminary hydrogeologic site assessment was conducted; organic chemicals detected in groundwater monitoring wells included benzene, ethylbenzene, toluene and other compounds.

1989 - The final work plan for the remedial investigation/feasibility study (RI/FS) was approved by EPA; a group of approximately 125 potentially responsible parties (PRPs) appointed a nine-member steering committee to organize, oversee and fund the RI/FS.

1989 - Phase I of the RI began; sampling confirmed the presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in ground water, soils, and known waste areas; some smaller unknown waste areas were discovered.

The RI has been planned to determine the nature and extent of contamination at ACS in soils, surface water, sediment and ground water. Field work for the RI has been conducted in two phases. The general goal of Phase I (7/89 to 10/89) was to identify and confirm the contaminated areas and media (soil, water, etc.), evaluate the ground-water flow, and characterize the sources of buried waste. The general goal of Phase II (3/90 to 8/90) was to determine the extent and character of contamination found, delineate any upper aquifer contamination, and delineate the vertical and horizontal extent of buried waste in the areas identified during Phase I of the RI, and delineate sediment contamination in site wetlands. Methods of investigation have included geophysical surveys, soil borings, excavation of test pits, collection of ground-water, surface water and sediment samples, and performance of aquifer tests.

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM #1

Preliminary RI results are produced in the form of technical memoranda (TMs), and numbered chronologically. Two TMs have been produced for ACS corresponding to the two phases of the RI. TM #1 was finalized December 6, 1989. The following information was produced: partial characterization of wastes in the known source areas and burial areas, characterization of on-site ground water and characterization of on-site wetlands.

TM #1 is available in the public information repository.

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM #2

TM #2 was finalized and made available to the public in October 1990. It can be found in the public information repository.

In Phase II of the RI, an additional eight upper aquifer monitoring wells were installed. (Six were installed in Phase I.) Four lower aquifer monitoring wells were also installed.

In both phases, ten staff gages were used across the site to measure surface water elevations. Additional soil and waste sampling was conducted in three different areas, two in the off-site containment area and one inside the ACS facility.

Auger probes (probes drilled into the ground to collect underground soils and material) were used to help determine the best sampling plan for the site.

Seventy-three soil borings have been drilled and sampled so far and six test pits have been excavated in four areas known to contain buried wastes. Samples of the aquifer have been taken from five locations for purposes of analyzing the presence of volatile organic and semivolatile compounds. A shallow ground-water screening investigation was performed to assist in defining the limits of the plume of contamination in the upper aquifer under ACS. 55 ground-water samples were analyzed from 38 sampling locations. Two sampling rounds were conducted from on- and off-site monitoring wells. Private well sampling was also performed at eight locations during Phase II of the RI.

DATA COLLECTED

TM #2 is a five-volume report including investigation methodologies, field observations, tables (including test results) and figures (including maps).

Data interpretation will be reported at a later date upon completion of the RI report.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY SESSION

EPA personnel will be available to discuss TM #2 at two informal sessions:

Tuesday, November 27, 1990
3-5 and 6-8 p.m.
Griffith Town Hall
111 N. Broad St.
Griffith, IN

These are opportunities for you to meet Remedial Project Manager Robert Swale and Community Relations Coordinator Karen Martin. They will have the complete TM #2 available for review, as well as maps and other graphics. Feel free to come at any time during open house hours to share concerns or ask questions.

EPA PERSONNEL

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(312)886-6128

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Toll-free (800)621-8431 (9 - 4:30 CST)

MAILING LIST

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, you are not on the mailing list for the **American Chemical Services** Superfund site. To add your name to the list, or to make a correction, please complete out this form and mail it to Karen Martin at the address above.

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